



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
901 South Stewart St., Suite 4001
Carson City, NV 89701-5249

POLLUTION REPORT

Date: November 2, 2006
From: Tom Dunkelman, OSC, EPA Region 9
To: Distribution List
Subject: Evergreen Health and Rehabilitation Center Carson City
Mercury Response

POLREP No.:	01 and FINAL	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Reporting Period:	11/1/06 – 11/2/06	Site ID No.:	NA
Start Date:	11/1//2006	Demob Date:	11/2/06
Delivery Order No.:	None	Action Memo Status:	None
CERCLIS ID:	None	NPL Status:	Non-NPL

I. SITE DESCRIPTION

A. Incident Category

Time-Critical

B. Incident Description

At 11:00 on November 1, 2006 EPA received a request from Darren Selby, Carson City Public Works to provide technical assistance at a small mercury release at the Evergreen Health and Rehabilitation Center located at 3050 N. Ormsby Blvd. in Carson City, NV. OSC Dunkelman arrived at the facility at 11:30, accompanied by Rob Palmer, with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

Earlier that morning, three thermometers had been dropped in a training room, resulting in a small mercury spill. The facility hired Universal Environmental to conduct cleanup activities. By the time EPA arrived, UE had already used a mercury vacuum to collect the visible mercury and had mopped the spill area with HGX mercury decontaminant powder.

II. CURRENT ACTIVITIES

EPA and NDEP conducted an entry into the room using a Lumex Vapor Analyzer. Readings immediately inside the doorway were approaching 20,000 nanograms per cubic meter (ng/m3). EPA recommended to UE that they remove the mercury waste

from the room and ventilate the room. EPA also performed Lumex monitoring to confirm that no other rooms in the facility had been impacted.

EPA and NDEP returned to the facility at 15:30 and conducted additional Lumex screening of the room. Mercury readings at floor level ranged from 2,000-3,000 ng/m³ throughout most of the room, with readings of 4,000-5,000 ng/m³ in the vicinity of the spill area. A decision was made to heat the room for several hours and then ventilate the room through the night. EPA departed at 16:30.

EPA and NDEP returned to the facility at 07:30 on 11/2/06. Apparently, the use of a small propane heater had set off one of the fire sprinklers causing a significant amount of water to be released. The water was removed from the room that evening. EPA conducted additional Lumex screening that morning and found breathing zone mercury readings to be less than 1,000 ng/m³, with a few locations on the floor exceeding 1,000 ng/m³. UE conducted an additional mopping with HGX. EPA conducted a final round of Lumex monitoring at 12:30 and found all locations to be less than 1,000 ng/m³, which is the residential re-occupancy level recommended by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). EPA also conducted Lumex screening of the clothing of the instructor who had dropped the thermometers. Several of her clothing items were found to be significantly contaminated. These items were bagged for disposal.

III. NEXT STEPS

All work is complete.

IV. PLANNED REMOVAL ACTIVITIES

None

V. KEY ISSUES

None

VI. COST INFORMATION

EPA did not incur any significant costs.

VII. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

Mercury and mercury contaminated waste will be disposed of properly by Universal Environmental.

VIII. CONTACT INFORMATION

OSC Tom Dunkelman, (775) 687-9480.